

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Independent Claim 12, the only independent claim in the present application, is directed to a method of controllably conveying or intermittently conveying a web of packaging laminate provided with holes to at least one application station which is disposed to cover said holes with opening arrangements. As recited above, the method comprises, *inter alia*, determining an intended conveying or indexing distance of the web; on the basis of a predefined profile for a second section of the indexing, dividing up the intended indexing distance of the web into a first section and a second section; conveying the web the first section; conveying the web the second section; and during the second section of the indexing of the web, registering an actual position of a pre-made hole in the web and adapting, on the basis of the registered actual position of the hole, the second section of the indexing of the web so that said hole arrives at a correct position in relation to an application station for applying an opening arrangement over said hole.

According to the claimed invention each indexing step (conveying distance) of the web is divided into two sections. Thus, it is possible to have the second section of the indexing be the same, independent of the length of the first section of each indexing step of the web. Accordingly, this makes it possible to have consistent positioning of a predefined element, the advantages of which are discussed extensively in the Summary of the Invention portion of the description, as set forth at, for example, Paragraphs [0012] and [0017] of the published application.

In the Official Action, claims 12-18 stand rejected as either being anticipated or rendered obvious by EP 1249399 to Marbe et al. Marbe et al., which is also assigned to the current assignee, is directed to a method of indexing a web packaging material 2 in a web packaging material processing unit 1 of a machine for packaging food products. The web 2 is fed through unit 1 along a path P and is provided with a printed pattern or design including a bar code C that periodically recurs with a defined repeatlength R. See, Paragraph [0014]. The web feed is controlled according to repeated feed cycles including a first feed step of a length equal to 5R and a second feed step or length equal to 1R. Thus, as explained in Paragraph [0025], the web 2 "is advanced by one repeatlength, i.e. is indexed by 1R" ... then the web 2 "is indexed by 5R"... and then the web 2 "is indexed by 1R", etc. As such, Marbe et al. define a first feed step or first index $L1 = 5R$ and a second feed step or second index $L2 = 1R$. Marbe et al. does not disclose or suggest dividing up each indexing ($L1$ or $L2$) of the web into two sections. The alleged "sections" referenced by the Examiner in relation to Marbe et al. are not sections of an indexing step of the web, as in the claimed invention, but different sections of the processing unit through which the web must pass.

In contrast, the two sections (first and second) recited in Claim 12 of the present application are sections of a single feed step or indexing step, i.e., "the intended indexing distance", and thus refer to actions *within* one single feed or indexing of the web. That is, as explained more fully in Paragraphs [0054] - [0057] of the published application, indexing step or conveying 1 may equal 1 package (or one repeatlength 1R in terms of Marbe) and indexing step or conveying 2 may equal 5 packages (or 5R in terms of Marbe), but in the claimed invention, conveying 1 and/or

conveying 2 is then further divided into a first section and second section, i.e., F1 +G or F2 +G. This further division of a single indexing is not disclosed or suggested in the cited prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 12 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited reference.

A detailed discussion of the additional distinguishing aspects of the method recited in dependent claims 13-18 is not set forth at this time as the dependent claims are allowable by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claim 12.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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